

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1366

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend Ernestine Hill Carpenter for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ernestine Hill Carpenter is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born May 13, 1939, to Robert and Virginia Hill, Mrs. Carpenter is the sister of Lucille Hill, James Hill, Robert Lee Hill, Henry Hill, Fred Hill, Charles Hill, Samuel Hill and his wife, Patricia, Henderson Hill and his wife, Arnett, and Nathaniel Hill and his wife, Rachael; she was the devoted sister of the late Delia Hill; and

WHEREAS, educated in the Memphis City School System, Mrs. Carpenter completed her elementary education at Florida Elementary School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School; and

WHEREAS, after earning her bachelor's degree from LeMoyne College, she earned her master's degree at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it was while she was a student at LeMoyne College that she flourished as a young activist, participating in the Memphis sit-ins of 1960, which were crucial in the advancement of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Ernestine Carpenter went on to serve as a teacher of mathematics at Manassas and Carver High School and at Cypress and Humes Junior High School, as the assistant principal of Geeter High School from 1984 to 1994, and as the principal of Carver High

School from 1994 to 1996; she has also been an educator at Southwest Community College; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1961, she was united in holy matrimony with Ernest Carpenter; their blessed union produced two sons, Eldred Leon Carpenter and Ernest Lavert Carpenter, and five grandchildren, Latoya Carpenter, Erica Carpenter, Xiamare Carpenter, Megan Carpenter, and Carson Carpenter; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to her community, Mrs. Carpenter lends her time and talents to serving as the Chairperson of the District 86 Advisory Committee, a member of the Fogelman YMCA Board of Directors, the Secretary of the Memphis Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and a member of the Sierra Club; and

WHEREAS, she has also found time to serve as a campaign manager for District 86 State Representative Barbara Cooper, an executive committee member for the Memphis and Shelby County Democratic Party, and the Co-chairman of the William "Bill" Morris Gubernatorial Campaign; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to excellence has garnered her many honors, including the Outstanding and Dedicated Service Award of the New Life Gospel Choir, the Welcome Back Award of the Twenty-Year Reunion of the Class of 1974, the Outstanding Service Award of Greater Paradise Baptist Church, the Outstanding Service Award of Creative Life, Inc., the Community Education Award of the Bluff City Medical Society, the Youth Guidance Commission Certificate of Recognition of the Memphis City Council, the Teaching God's Word Award of New Life Missionary Baptist Church, an African American Heritage Living Legend Award, the Community Leadership Award, two consecutive American Heart Association Appreciation Awards, the Distinguished Service Award of the Neighborhood Reunion, the Environmental Justice Activist of Excellence Award of the Sierra Environmental Justice Program, the Sixty Years Membership Certificate of Appreciation of New Life Missionary Baptist Church, and the Cooper/Jones Initiative Appreciation Award of State Representatives Barbara Cooper and Ulysses Jones; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carpenter evinces her devout faith through her lifelong membership of New Life Missionary Baptist Church, which she has served as member of the choir and as a Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary career, Mrs. Carpenter has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carpenter's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carpenter is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Ernestine Carpenter is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Ernestine Hill Carpenter for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.